

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pad support for a beverage maker, comprising a bottom ~~(14;64)~~ forming a barrier for beverage liquid flowing from a supported pad ~~(18)~~, a discharge opening ~~(19)~~ in said bottom ~~(14;64)~~ for discharging beverage liquid through said bottom ~~(14;64)~~, and a nozzle ~~(22;72)~~ restricting said discharge opening ~~(19)~~ for generating a beverage liquid jet from said nozzle ~~(22;72)~~, and a plurality of pad support projections ~~(16, 17)~~ comprising an innermost plurality ~~(17)~~ of said support projections projecting from said bottom ~~(14;64)~~ at positions circumferentially distributed around said discharge opening ~~(19)~~, characterized in thatwherein, seen in top plan view towards said bottom ~~(14;64)~~, at least some from among said innermost plurality of support projections ~~(17)~~ have a cross-section that is elongate in a radial direction with

respect to said discharge opening (19), and wherein said cross-section has a length in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening and has a largest width located radially between a middle of said length in a radial direction with respect to said discharge opening and an outer end of said length.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 1, wherein said elongate cross-sections each have an innermost end (23) and an outermost end (24), the innermost end (23) being sharper than the outermost end (24).

4. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 1, wherein neighboring ones from among said innermost plurality of support projections (17) have straight wall portions (25, 26) facing each other, thus bounding a passage (27, 77) between said neighboring projections (17) having a width which is constant or decreases in radial direction towards said discharge opening (19).

5. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 1,  
wherein said cross-sections elongate in a radial direction with  
respect to said discharge opening ~~(19)~~ are wing or droplet-shaped.

6. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 1,  
wherein distal ends of said support projections define a support  
bed ~~(30)~~ for supporting said pad ~~(18)~~, wherein said bottom ~~(14;64)~~  
has an outermost circumference ~~(29)~~, and wherein the distance  
between said bottom ~~(14;64)~~ and said support bed ~~(30)~~ increases in  
radial directions towards said discharge opening ~~(19)~~ at least in a  
ring-shaped portion ~~(28)~~ of said bottom ~~(14;64)~~ surrounding said  
discharge opening and radially and inwardly spaced away from said  
outermost circumference ~~(29)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 6,  
wherein, in said ring-shaped portion ~~(28)~~ of said bottom ~~(14;64)~~,  
said bottom slopes more steeply than in bottom portions radially  
outside said ring-shaped bottom portion ~~(28)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A-The pad support according to claim 6,

wherein said innermost plurality of support projections (17) project from said ring-shaped bottom portion-(28).

9. (Currently Amended) A The pad support according to claim 6, wherein, in said ring-shaped portion (28) of said bottom (14;64) surrounding said discharge opening-(19), said bottom (14;64) slopes more steeply than in bottom portions between said ring-shaped portion (28) and said discharge opening-(19).

10. (Currently Amended) A The pad support according to claim 6, wherein said bottom (14;64) has a flat portion (31;81) between said ring-shaped portion (28) and said discharge opening-(19).

11. (Currently Amended) A The pad support according to claim 1, wherein the discharge opening (19) has a sharp upstream separation edge (34) forming a transition from said bottom (14; 64) to said discharge opening (19) for causing a separation of beverage liquid from the discharge opening (19) as the beverage liquid flows into the discharge opening-(19).

12. (Currently Amended) A foam unit comprising ~~a~~ the pad support ~~(15;65)~~ according to claim 1 and a buffer reservoir ~~(36)~~ positioned downstream of the nozzle ~~(22)~~ for retaining a buffer quantity of beverage liquid such that, in operation, beverage liquid is jetted from the nozzle ~~(22)~~ into the buffer quantity of beverage liquid.

13. (Currently Amended) A beverage maker comprising: a water heating and feeding structure ~~(45-47)~~ communicating with a brewing chamber ~~(13)~~ for feeding hot water under pressure towards said brewing chamber ~~(13)~~; ~~a~~ the foam unit according to claim 12; and a beverage dispensing passage communicating with said buffer reservoir ~~(36)~~, wherein the pad support ~~(15;65)~~ bounds a bottom side of said brewing chamber ~~(13)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a beverage with a foam layer, comprising steps of forcing water through a granulate or powder upstream of a filter wall of a pad ~~(18)~~ and of receiving the beverage from the pad ~~(18)~~ using ~~a~~ the pad support ~~(15;65)~~ according to claim 1, the beverage liquid flow being such that a

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laminar flow pattern is obtained in an area directly upstream of  
said discharge opening (19).